CDXC Newsletter

December 1990 *Chiltern DX Club* Issue 70

Editorial

(Steve Telenius-Lowe, G4JVG)

With the exception of the CQ World Wide contest, referred to elsewhere in this Newsletter, I have not been very active since the last Newsletter came out. I have been very busy with preparations for our move to Papua New Guinea, which has involved telephone calls to PNG at midnight or 6 a.m., taking into account the 10 hour time difference, and sending FAXes, sometimes two a week, to sort out last-minute administrative problems. Applying for the visas required no fewer than a dozen different documents and necessitated full medical check-ups, full plate chest X-rays and a statutory declaration in front of a commissioner of oaths to the effect that I was not a criminal! However, all the hurdles have now been overcome and my last working day in the U.K. will be 31st January. We still have to sort out transportation for ourselves and all our baggage (including the radio gear, of course). We are still hoping to travel "long path" and stop off in one or two choice DX locations on the journey out to PNG, although if this proves impossible we should at least be able to see Hong Kong and/or Singapore on the "short path" route.

Look for me on the bands from P29 (callsign unknown at present, although I'm hoping for P29DX or P29SL) from early March onwards. I do not yet know exactly where we'll be living, so do not know how easy it will be to put up antennas. However, I will be taking a KLM KT-34 4-element tribander and a Butternut HF2V for the low bands, plus lots of wire, along with the TS930S and Henry 2KD Classic linear amp., so providing I can get some sort of antenna up in the air, I should be heard!

This must definitely be the last Newsletter that I will be editing, and at the time of writing there has still been no volunteer to take over the reigns as editor. Come on, there's not that much work involved, and it is quite enjoyable. The only requirement is access to some sort of PC. It would be a great shame to see the club fold, for that would undoubtedly happen without a Newsletter. If you feel you could spend a few hours putting the Newsletter together

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every other month, please contact a committee member a.s.a.p.!

I was quite disappointed in the T33R expedition to Banaba. As I have said, I have not been terribly active, but I needed Banaba and so made a point of looking for them at likely times (although I will be the first to admit that I did not spend hour after hour scanning the bands for them). I only heard them twice, once on the first evening of operation on 20 metres SSB, when there was a huge pile-up and their signal was extremely weak (I presume they had just got on the air with a "barefoot" rig to a vertical).

The only other time I heard them was on 3799 kHz at 1800 GMT one evening, when Pekka OH1RY was working several southern and eastern Europeans co-channel. If it had been a quiet frequency, he would have been quite workable, but you can imagine just how quiet the frequency was! Incidentally, why do so few DXpeditions seem to work split on 80 or 40m SSB, even if they habitually work split on 10, 15 and 20m, when it is on 80 metres that it is most necessary?!

On several occasions there was no sign of them on 20m SSB when the band was wide open to VK and ZL. I'm not "rubbishing" the operation, because I suspect many CDXC members did work T33R, but they were not as audible as I was hoping they may have been.

The ZS9Z/ZS1 operation to Penguin Islands was quite different, though. I caught them on 28445kHz (exactly where they said they would be) at 0730 GMT on their second day of operation, having been told that they were on that frequency at that time the day before. They were easy to work, with a big signal, and it was good to hear two more CDXC members go through straight after me. An hour later they had changed operator and were calling CQ, getting only intermittent takers!

As we draw to the end of 1990, we can look back on a year of phenomenal DX activity. With expeditions such as 3Y5X, 3D2AM, 7O1AA and 7O8AA, AH3C/KH5J, 1S0XV and 1S1RR, the various 3W operations, PA3CXC/ST0, the S2 operations, A51JS, C9QL, HK0TU and now ZS9Z/ZS1, as well as "minor" operations such as ZZ0TA, KH6JEB/KH7, 1A0KM and KC6EE/KC6GV, it must rank as probably the best year ever for activity from

CDXC Committee:

President	G4LJF
Chairman	G3XTT
Vice-Chairman	G0HSD
Secretary	G3LQP
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Other Officers:

Awards Manager	G4GED
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Newsletter Printing and Distribution	G4JVG

Club Net: Mondays, 7pm local time, 3773kHz
Club Alerting Frequencies: 144.525 & 70.385MHz
Packet Cluster: GB7DXI on 70.325MHz or via WOK22 on 144.675MHz

Deadline for next newsletter: 19th Jan 1991

rare countries. Here's hoping that 1991 is just as good, with the likelihood of YA before the end of the year and even the possibility of ZA before too long. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all CDXC members a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous and DX-filled New Year. I look forward to meeting you all from P29.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN
(Don Field, G3XTT)

I am sorry this newsletter has appeared rather late, but both Steve and I have had rather a lot on over the last couple of months. Anyway, the time now makes it very appropriate to wish all members a very Happy Christmas and DX-filled New Year. Since the last newsletter appeared most of my own amateur radio activities have centred on the CQWW contests. I joined with other CDXC members and other friends for the GU6UW multi-op effort in the Phone contest, and then paid a visit to Jersey to operate as GJ6UW in the CW leg. I must say, going it alone it much harder work!

The HF Convention was the best ever in terms of the programme, though attendance was disappointingly down, due perhaps to the change of venue and/or the inclement weather. The CDXC hospitality suite was quiet for much of the time, but was worth a try. My thanks to Andrew (G0HSD) and Roger (G3LQP) for arranging CDXC's attendance at the Convention. Most of my own time was tied up with the software demos - incidentally I still have copies of the my 50-page booklet of Software Reviews available at £4 each including postage.

There have been some recent changes in the RSGB which affect us all. Martin, G3ZAY, is no longer HF Committee Chairman, but has taken on the important role of HF Manager from John, G3FKM, who wants to devote more time to his role as Secretary of IARU Region 1. The new HF Committee Chairman is Bob, G3PJT, a new recruit to CDXC. And CDXC member John, G3HTA, will shortly take up his seat on Council. It's good to see active HFers playing such a major part in RSGB and IARU affairs.

There have been relatively few major DXpeditions this autumn (or have I just been too busy to notice?). The ZS9Z/1 effort was one of the biggest, and the Colvins have also been to some rare spots although there level of activity strikes me as being down on previous years, not surprisingly perhaps as they are no longer spring chickens. For my own part the most interesting news is that of a possible operation from YA by Romeo, UB5JRR/3W3RR. CDXC will be making a contribution to this operation. As a group we cannot make a big dent in the finances required to bring off a trip to, say, Bouvet, but hopefully we can actually make a difference to a more modest effort such as this one. Concern has been ex-

pressed about the size of sums being asked for (though still a tenth of what Bouvet cost); rest assured we will do our best to ensure that any CDXC contribution is properly used.

The level of renewals has been down this year, although we have also attracted a lot of new members on recent months. Perhaps the increased subscription has discouraged some, although it is still very modest compared with most organisations. In the past the subscription didn't even cover the cost of the newsletter and we had to rely on the goodwill of various employers to get photocopying done at a reduced rate. With a membership of over 100 this is unreasonable. The current subscription covers costs adequately and leaves us a margin to begin to develop other activities and services though, as Don, G3OZF, pointed out at the last ARM, to extend ourselves very much more we will need to find additional ways of raising funds. He cited BARTG who supply booklets, kits and software. I am pleased to say that, thanks to John, G3WGV, CDXC has already developed one such income stream in return for distributing and supporting his contesting software (just as the Yankee Clipper Contest Club does with K1EA's software in the States). The result is that our bank balance is at its healthiest ever but this shouldn't make us complacent. I don't believe we should let up on the income side, but rather that we should see this as an opportunity to develop what we can do to serve CDXC members and the DX community at large.

The Cluster network is developing apace, with new Clusters in Hemel Hempstead and Chandlers Ford, and others mooted for Sussex, Ipswich and Cambridge (and possibly elsewhere). Ian, G4LJF, reports that, in its first year of operation, some 870 different callsigns logged into GB7DXI which can't be bad! OK, many of them may just have been curious, but a good proportion keep coming back.

Finally, I am sorry to say that a recent change of job (albeit within the same company) means that I will no longer have access to my trusty Macintosh computer, which will limit what I can do in the way of computer typesetting this newsletter. I will continue to do what I can with the resources at my disposal, but if anyone else has access to good facilities and can help out, please contact me. And, of course, with Steve's imminent departure to P29 we are desperate to find a new newsletter editor. Again, please step forward if you can help.

73 Don

Secretary's Notepad

(From Roger, G3LQP)

Daventry, CQ WW SSB/CW contests and Christmas fast approaching, and its the December issue of the CDXC Newsletter, which goes to prove that the older you get the more time flies by.

CDXC had an excellent Daventry, with recruitment of 16 new members, and of course meeting many old friends and members. Although I gather atten-

dance was down from previous Oxford conventions, I think in terms of quality it will be hard to match in future, with guest speakers such as VK9NS, LA1EE and F6EXV.

Congratulations to the organisers (CDXC members of course) for a super effort. The Penallt Trophy was won by Steve Cole GW4BLE, and Sue Phillips, widow of GW0BIC kindly made the journey to the convention to present the trophy to the winner. The CDXC CQ WW plaques were awarded to Steve Cole GW4BLE (SSB) and Al Slater G3FXB (CW) - congratulations to both.

A note of thanks to members who helped me to man the CDXC stand, allowing Beryl and I a rest, and to see the Bouvet and Bhutan lectures.

Answering a couple of queries: CDXC logo rubber stamps are available at £8.00 - please order via G3LQP. Also every new member should receive a CDXC lapel badge with this Newsletter. Any new or old member who has still not received one please let G3LQP know.

The weekend after Daventry was the FOC dinner which I attended together with many joint CDXC/FOC members. Attendance on this occasion was also down on previous years, and there was a suggestion that in future the HF Convention and FOC dinner could be a joint venture. Congratulations to CDXC member Peter Miles G3KDB who was elected President of FOC this year. Also Rob GM3YTS (another CDXC member) made a super speech at the dinner (Rob, you really gave the game away by wearing that "skirt").

The following day Beryl and I departed to the Greek island of Zakinthos for a week's well-earned rest. Two interesting asides: we visited one of the many gift shops and commented to the assistant on her excellent English. She came from Toronto and her father was a VE3 ham! Also in the shop were some interesting sea shells which I last saw in the 50s in the Car-Nicobar Islands (VU7) when I was flying Valettas between 4S7 and 9V1. On investigation the shells did come from VU7, so I promptly bought the lot for my collection.

Also we made a day-trip to the mainland to visit Olympia, where the games started. On the conducted tour of the village and stadium - which were first class - we were joined by visitors

from YO and SP, a pleasant sign of the times.

DX-wise, have been mainly on the LF bands, adding to the country and zone totals. Conditions have been excellent at times, despite being near the top of the cycle. May I wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year, and hope your DX dreams come true. Best 73, take care and good DXing, Roger G3LQP.

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CHILTERN DX CLUB

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From Steve GW4BLE (Newport, Gwent)

I read, with interest, Dave G4BUO's comments in the last newsletter about encouraging more newcomers to contesting. My own philosophy has always been to encourage newcomers by way of their own stations, *not* operating from a large multi-multi! The only way to learn is from your own station, in your own time. If contesting isn't your "thing" then don't push it! There are some pseudo-contesters in this area (not members of CDXC I may add), who seem to think that contesting means turning up one weekend, switching on a rig, and away you go. Successful HF contesting goes hand-in-hand with DXing - if you aren't on the bands regularly working DX, learning about propagation, experimenting with antennas then no way will you do well when the contest comes around! End of sermon, hi!

My own score for CQWW was a best yet, with K1EA running "live" for the first time in CQWW. There was some editing to do afterwards and also some oddities in one or two files, like the continental statistics for instance. Fortunately the storms that were forecast for the weekend didn't quite materialise [*they did in Guernsey! - ed.*] but even so I did have to wind the tower down at 4 a.m. on Sunday and left it at about 40 feet for the rest of the contest.

The HF Convention was, I'm sure, enjoyed by all. Thanks to the RSGB HF Committee for staging it, but please could we have a different venue next year! There just wasn't the atmosphere of the Belfry, and surely there would appear to now be sufficient support to consider a two-day event?

From Andrew, G0HSD (Bledlow, Bucks.)

It was very nice to see many familiar faces at Daventry, as well as putting faces to calls for the first time. I always look forward to the HF Convention and this year was no exception. I felt that the lecture programme was excellent, with some of the big names in DXing/expeditioning telling their stories, and of course Ian, John and Don etc. talking about PacketCluster, logging programs etc. (sorry I missed that one!) Luckily I was able to attend the Clipperton DX Convention in Paris the week before with Martin G3ZAY and Steve G4EDG and heard a lot of the lectures that I was not able to attend at Daventry. A big thanks to Don and Martin for all their hard work and to Paul F6EXV and the Clipperton gang for putting up with us in Paris.

I had a very busy time that weekend. Paul and Matts SM7PKK stayed with me either side of the Convention. We arrived back from the airport just in time for last orders at the local - and at about 12.30 a.m. we finally got thrown out, still rabbiting on about DX. We eventually got to bed at 4 a.m. and woke with Romanian headaches and decided to walk them off in the hills. The walk didn't quite go to plan (we got lost) and it poured with rain. Seven miles later we finally got back to the car, sodden, and feeling worse than we did when we

set off. Sorry Paul!

Thanks to everyone who found the CDXC room at Daventry and called in, or who donated bits and pieces for the displays. Many thanks also to everybody who spared some time to help man the stands. Unfortunately the room was located as far away as it could be from the rest of the activities, which meant fewer people than had been hoped for called in.

The CQWW SSB proved interesting. I managed to put the 20m extensions on the Quad and fired away. The bands were in excellent shape with Ws and JAs coming through most of the time and some nice surprises from the Pacific too. As usual there were one or two HSDisasters. Windy weather meant that one of the 20m quad loops got caught around the 144 MHz yagi and as I rotated the antenna one of the 20m extensions broke. After moping about for an hour, having decided all was lost, I realised that a quick trip to the garden centre would provide a small stake which could be used as a new extension. Due to cancelled Multi-Single plans, I found that the folks had arranged a family get-together and many relatives were staying the night. As I was not supposed to be operating from home, they were not informed until the day and so I had to be sociable. After only 30 hours operating I managed to make 2798 QSOs, 300 countries and 110 zones, so I feel I did quite well under the circumstances. Congratulations to the GU team and GW4BLE, who both had massive scores!

The contest, recent DXpeditions, and DXCC deletions, have left me needing 31 for Honor Roll.

Just a final word. Matts SM7PKK wrote to me saying that very few sponsors have made donations for the T33R operation and that no big sponsors have stepped forward. Sponsors do include the LA DX Group and the Clipperton DX Club. The group need lots of money to avoid the whole project being a financial disaster, so please remember this when you QSL. Maybe CDXC should donate something?

From Alan G4NXG/M (somewhere on the road)

The last year has found me not only operating mobile in England and Wales, but also signing G4NXG/CT3/M and with two trips to the United States as W1, W2, W3, W4, W8 and W9/G4NXG/M, operating from the states of Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, West Virginia, and Indiana as well as from VE3-land in Canada.

My operation from Madeira was for a three-day period only as car hire is fairly expensive there and, with the congestion in Funchal, not recommended, except for touring the island. With only about 200 metres of straight road on the island, which is a 6000 ft. mountain which stretches down to the sea on all sides, it is not very conducive to mobile amateur radio [*I wondered why you don't hear many CT3 mobiles! - ed.*] Therefore most of the contacts were when stationary and I soon discovered that the car had a poor battery - the hills came in very useful a couple of times! Although my intention was for

operation on 18 and 24 MHz, the licensing authority in Funchal said, at the time, that Lisbon had not informed them that this was legal from Madeira, and would not endorse my licence accordingly, so I operated only on 21 MHz, managing to work all continents. I have since found out that it appears WARC band operating is legitimate there and should in hind sight have applied to Lisbon.

The first visit to the United States was during the following month, taking in the Christmas and New Year festivities. I stayed with my cousin who has been living in Providence, Rhode Island, for the past six years. While there I looked up a few of the locals. W1PCQ, who lives only a few hundred yards from my cousin, said that the last ham to knock on his door was a VK some twenty years ago! Fred KA1YM lives only a couple of miles away and had invited me during a QSO before I left the UK. He made me very welcome and his wife thought that it was quite a novelty to have someone from England visit. Between Christmas and New Year I drove out to Niagara Falls, nearly 1000 miles round trip. The falls are spectacular at the best of times, but in all their winter glory, with the river below the falls frozen, they are quite incredible.

On the way to Canada I took a slight detour to Newington to visit ARRL Headquarters. Don Search was only too happy to check some cards for endorsement to DXCC for Tony G4ZYQ and myself, along with a new 28 MHz DXCC for Neil G0JHC. I also collected my ARRL Diamond Award on the spot. What excellent service. Before I left I was given the opportunity to operate form the headquarters station W1AW, which created a bit of a pile-up.

In April I returned to the USA along with Bob G4GEE to attend the Dayton Hamvention, flying out to Cleveland, Ohio via Newark, New Jersey. We hired a car and drove through Ohio, visiting the Amish country and a State Forest on the way. For those who have not been, it is a "must", with 30000 radio amateurs there including such "big names" as W6KG, W6QL, W1YL, W5KNE, W6GO, K6HHD, K1EA, K1AR, AK1A, W3HNK, VP2ML, VK3MO, VE1AL as well as quite a few CDXC members!

Back home, since my last letter in November 89 I have worked 23 all-time new countries to bring my total to 281, allowing for the deletion of Y2. They are JD1(M), XW, 3Y(B), FT5X, KH3, VR6, ZS9, T32, A15, XU, KH5J, ST0, VP8(O), KH8, 3D2(C), 7O, T2, V7, YJ, ZK1(N), ZK3, XX9 (at last!) and HK0(M). My confirmed score is now 271 with cards from A6, JD1(M), 4J1, 9N1, VP8(G), VP8(Shet), ZS8, ZS9, CE0Z, KH3, VR6, T32, 3Y(B), YN, ZK2, KH8, FT5X, T2, V7, VP8(O), 7O and finally, at the third attempt, XW [*I'm still waiting for my XW cards, too! - ed*]

A few awards have been received here including the Commonwealth Century Club (No. 21), Worked All Pacific (No. 63 "G") and IOTA 100. I have had no luck with a reply from South Africa regarding an application form for AAA. I am now looking for something new, so Oblasts are a possibility, with 75 confirmed towards the

R-100-O award.

Well, that's about it for now. I'm off to try to work the T33, 73 to all.

From Clive G3NKQ (Huntingdon, Cambs.) [*Clive wrote prior to the last Newsletter, but unfortunately his contribution got lost in the 'JVG filing system - apologies, Clive - ed.*]

At long last I am putting pen to paper for the CDXC Newsletter - though the main reason is probably forced on me following a change of address [*the new address was given in the last Newsletter - ed.*] This move was all of 75 yards, but just as wearing as a longer QSY!

It is now over a year since I got back from VP8 and the QSL cards are now down to a mere trickle. With the confirmations in so far I have sent off my DXCC application for VP8BWL. When I receive the certificate, it will be my seventh DXCC from different callsigns.

Closer to home, I have been very active recently on 18MHz. This followed a long LL chat with Roger, G3KMA, about his new beam and also that of Henry G3GIQ. He was quite enthusiastic about its performance on the WARC bands, so I re-engineered my 21MHz dipole, i.e. I added a bit of wire to each end, and went to work on 18. I have really enjoyed operating on this band and in only three months my band score has gone up to just over 100 countries on CW/SSB. Oh, I forgot to say - the trusty dipole is in the loft!

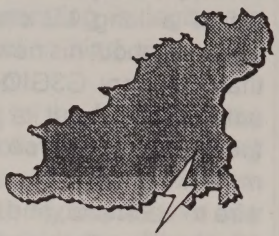
CONTEST CORNER

The CQ World Wide Phone contest is now behind us. I was one of the 11 operators of GU6UW, mainly CDXC members, who entered the contest in the multi-single category from Guernsey. Despite filthy weather - they claimed it hadn't rained in Guernsey for six months, and then we got all six months'-worth in five days! we had nothing but kindness and co-operation from the GU guys, especially Phil GU0JCI, the Chairman of the Guernsey Amateur Radio Club (GU3HFN) who made it all possible for us; Jim GU0ELF, and his wife Iris who own the "Lindale" guest house where we all stayed; and Mike GU4EON and his XYL Caroline, who invited most of the group round to their new house for drinks the evening before our departure from the island. Mike has been QRT for several years, but our visit has apparently "fired him up" and he is now threatening to put up a tower and quad and become active in the DX-chasing and contesting game again.

This year we took over so much gear it necessitated the hiring of a Transit-type van. The biggest item was G3XTT's 100 foot Clark army mast, which we put up to about 90 feet, with G3ZAY's Cushcraft 40 metre beam on top. It was quite a sight and could be seen for miles around! The other antennas were a TH6 beam at 60 feet, a TH5 at 40 feet, G4BUO's home-brew 5-element mono-band 28 MHz beam at 30 feet, an 80-metre delta-loop at 80

ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

GU6UW CQ Worldwide Phone Contest 1990



GU6UW

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feet, a 160-metre 3/8-wave inverted-L at 60 feet, an 80/40 metre trap dipole, and a Butternut HF6V vertical. Radios were a TS940S with Henry 2KD Classic amp, a TS-930S with TL-922 amp, an IC-735 with Dentron MLA-2500 amp, and an FT-101ZD. For most of the contest three stations were being used to hunt for multipliers continuously, while the TS940/Henry 2K line-up worked the pile-up on another band.

We tried unsuccessfully to get into the Devon PacketCluster and perhaps under "normal" VHF conditions we would have been able to do so, but conditions were worse than flat, probably because of the deep depression passing over the Channel Islands. We found out later that over 1000 "spots" had been put on to the Cluster during the contest weekend - I wonder how many of them we missed?!

However, high-tech. worked and worked well in another area: we logged on two PCs using K1EA software - the first time any of us had used K1EA in a multi-single contest, which requires linking the two PCs together and which only the most recent release of K1EA software will permit.

It was a pleasure to have Spyros 5B4MF and Andreas 5B4LP, both studying at university in England at present and both CDXC members, along with us this year, having "head-hunted" them from the GW8GT multi-single group, with whom they operated last year. Spyros and Andreas are both excellent operators, and Andreas was the lucky one who got the peak of Stateside propagation on 10 metres. It was fascinating looking at the PC to see the QSO rate going up and up, at one point reaching the rate of 500 QSOs per hour for the last 10 QSOs and staying above 350 per hour for the last 100 QSOs for some considerable time.

The full list of operators was: G3UML, G3XTT, G3ZAY, G4BUO, G4DQW, G4DSE, G4JVG, GM3YOR, GU0JCI, 5B4LP and 5B4MF. The GU6UW claimed score is as follows:

BAND	QSOs	QSO PTS	PTS/ QSO	ZONES	COUNTRIES
160	99	116	1.2	8	46
80	335	590	1.8	14	66
40	941	2075	2.2	29	100
20	1347	3423	2.5	39	126
15	1572	3862	2.5	39	121
10	2723	7442	2.7	38	128
Total:	7017	17508	2.5	167	587

This gives a final score of 13,201,032, which beats the previous European multi-single record set by IR4LCK in 1988, although we don't know if any other European multi-single group also beat the record by a higher margin.

GW4BLE Steve entered the CQ WW SSB contest in the single operator category, with the following claimed score:

BAND	QSOs	QSO PTS	PTS/ QSO	ZONES	COUNTRIES
160	40	47	1.2	5	30
80	117	248	2.1	13	48
40	153	314	2.1	22	71
20	770	2077	2.7	28	82
15	894	2444	2.7	32	89
10	2277	6172	2.7	38	102
Total:	4251	11302	2.7	138	422

Final score = 6,329,120

Keith GW0ARK sent in the following claimed score:

BAND	QSOs	QSO PTS	PTS/ QSO	ZONES	COUNTRIES
160	33	34	1.0	4	21
80	82	132	1.6	5	28
40	166	380	2.3	14	47
20	434	1241	2.9	19	49
15	931	2263	2.4	26	81
10	1219	3523	2.9	23	63
Total:	2865	7573	2.6	91	289

Final score = 2,877,740

It is interesting to compare Steve's, and especially Keith's, points per QSO score with that of GU6UW - Keith obviously worked almost exclusively DX stations (3 points per QSO) on 10 and 20 metres, while working very few Europeans at all, giving him a very high points per QSO score.

Steve G3YDV, at present resident in the States as NM2Y, made another contest expedition to the Caribbean (lucky fellow), where he again operated as VP5T. I don't have a complete break-down of Steve's score, but he is claiming 7,031,948 points, so he obviously did extremely well. Steve was also one of the CDXC "Team" entry, consisting of five single operators, the others being K3ZO, G3FXB, GW4BLE and GW0ARK. I am still waiting for the scores of a couple of Team members at the time of writing.

NEW MEMBERS/NEW QTHs

Sincere welcome to the following new members, who joined since the last Newsletter (mainly at the HF Convention):

G3LNS George Beasley, Oaklands Penn Lane, Tamworth-in-Arden, Solihull, B94 5HL.

G3LZQ John Dunnington, 73 West Hall Garth, South Cave, Brough, Humberside, HU15 2HA. (Tel: 0430-422700)

G3PSM Colin Thomas, 36 Chelwood Crescent, Leeds, Yorks., LS8 2AO.(Tel: 0532-666317)

G3PMR Alan Jubb, 30 West Street, Gransden, Sandy, Beds., SG19 3AU.(Tel: 07677-7913)

G3RTE J. Kellaway, 110 Mimms Hall Road, Potters Bar, Herts., EN6 3DY.(Tel: 0707-57309)

G3VMW S. Wilson, 3 Craig Gardens, Bramham, Wetherby, N. Yorks., LS23 6RP.(Tel: 0937-844510)

G3WGV John Linford, Canberra Lodge, Heath Ride, Finchampstead, Berks., RG11 3QT.(Tel: 0734-733745)

G3WPF Reg Unsworth, Spurs Lodge, Sagars Road, Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 4HE.(Tel: 0625-536241)

G4CCZ Paul Simons, 23 Sidney Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 2NA.(Tel: 0932-240688)

G4ELZ Jeff Pascoe, 3 Aller Braice Road, Aller Park, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 4NJ(Tel: 0626-64440) .

G4PEL Ross Threapleton, 4 Camp Hill Cottage, Little Casterton, Stamford, Lincs., PE9 4BE.(Tel: 0780-52504)

G4ZVJ A.T.Chadwick, 3 Park Villas, Monkhouse, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, ST10 1HZ.(Tel: 0538-756161)

G0CCH Mo Weinstock, 24 Hamilton Road, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon, Warks., CV37 7DD.(Tel: 0789-204580)

G0KJW J.Eric Brown, 66 Abbey Meadows, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2YA.(Tel: 0670-515154)

G0LMX Vincent Denecker, 30 Ballard Chase, Abingdon, Oxon., OX14 1XQ.(Tel: 0235-535618)

G0MOF Andreas Mavrides, 45A Market Street, Broadbottom, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 6AX (5B4LP).(Tel: 0457-765390)

G0NAT Dr Harvey Good, 30 Lower Stanton Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 4LN.(Tel: 0602-440464)

GM3BQA Jim McCaig, Woodlands, Wamphray Road, North Berwick, EH39 5NR.(Tel: 0620-2519)

ON6BY Monique van den Doldor, Sarradn 70, BUOO, Ostend, Belgium.(Tel: 010-32-595808765)

Apologies if any of these details are incorrect (particularly ON6BY) due to my misreading the Secretary's handwriting. Where possible details were compared with the callbook, but it appears Monique's is a re-issued call.

I have known John G3WGV for a number of years and am very pleased to welcome him to CDXC. John is a keen CW operator and although he has not been too active from his home QTH for a few years, he has kept his fist in by being one of the operators of the Reading and District Amateur Radio Club's HF and VHF contest operations. Having recently moved QTH to a place with

sufficient space for some decent antennas and bought a new FT-1000, John will no doubt be much more active now. He is already on the PacketCluster system and gave the FT-1000 a thorough check-out in the CQ World Wide CW contest at the end of November.

Andreas G0MOF/5B4LP is at present studying at University near Manchester. He is a keen contester, holding several Asiatic records in the CQ WPX contests for his operations from Cyprus. Andreas was also one of the GU6UW operators during the CQ World Wide Phone contest in October.

Peter Hart G3SJX has moved QTH. His new address is The Willows, Paice Lane, Medstead, Alton, Hants., GU34 5PR.

Steve Emlyn-Jones GW4BKG has also moved, although he has the same postal address of P.O. Box 20, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 4YL. However, Steve does have a new phone number, which is 0656-646785.

Phil G4OBK has moved back to Lancs from GM-land: his new QTH is Phil Catterall, 35 Round Meadow, Leyland, Lancs., PR5 3RX (Tel: 0772-636086).

Keith Evans, G3VKW, new QTH: Little Field House, Bolney Road, Ansty, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 5HW (Tel. 0444-412414).

Bill EL2WK and his XYL Doreen EL2DK are safely home from Liberia, and their QTH is now W. Kellie, Wigber Low, Longrose La., Kniveton, Derbyshire.

Finally, some more corrections to the membership list in the last Newsletter - thanks to members for pointing them out and to the Secretary for passing them on to the Newsletter: BRS 25429 David Whittaker's correct phone no. is 0423-879084, G0JHC Neil Carr's correct phone no. is 0772-742710, G3KOX Nick Waite's correct phone no. is 043871-5713, and G2AMV's correct name should, of course, be Basil O'Brien, not O'Brian! Lastly, apologies to Cliff Underhill, G0MMI, whose call was left out of the last membership list - mea culpa. Cliff's address is 5 Grove Way, Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Bucks., HP18 0LF.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

In the last year, there have been a number of purely social get-togethers, including a couple of dinners in south Oxfordshire with Phil VS6CT as guest of honour, one of which was also attended by OZ7SM, who has also been active from VS6 and BY in years gone by. An "IOTA" dinner in London with Marek YJ8M as guest of honour was attended almost exclusively by CDXC members, and there was also the late summer barbecue, which this year was held at Roger G3KMA and Jill's QTH.

The annual Christmas dinner will be on 15th December, but at the time of writing only a handful of members have let me know that they will be coming. With such a large membership these days, the only way social events can be publicised is via the Newsletter and packet network, it is just not feasible to recruit members for get-togethers on a

pro-active basis. In other words, if you want to go, you have to tell the social secretary.

Obviously, many members live outside the south-east England area, but if any member would like to arrange a social event in their own area, I am sure the new Newsletter editor, whoever he may be, would be pleased to give space for publicity.

I must also give up as social secretary, so anyone who would like to take over this role should also contact a committee member as soon as possible.

CDXC EVENTS DIARY

1991	
30-31 March	CQ WPX SSB Contest (multi op entry as GB4CDX or GX6UW?) 3rd w/e (?)
	April RSGB National Convention, NEC, Birmingham
May	CDXC Annual Review Meeting
25/26 May	CQ WPX CW Contest (CDXC has not entered this before as a club. If you are interested, please contact a committee member)

Who's got a shiny new wireless then?

(John Linford, G3WGV)

It all really happened at once I suppose. I finally managed to move into a QTH with room for some HF antennas, I had a trip to the States coming up, and HF NFD finally convinced me that my trusty old FT980 that had done me so well for the past 10 years was just a little past it.

So what was it to be then? I'd better come clean at this stage and say that I tend to be a Yaesu man, but it must be said that that particular manufacturer did seem to have lost his way as far as HF gear is concerned. Until, in my opinion at least, recently.

Well I played around with all the expensive toys whilst I was in W-land, but to cut a long story short, after a day of first agonising over the decision, then trying to get the salesman to flog it to me for even less, I ended up buying an FT1000. I thought you'd like to hear some first hand impressions, so here goes:

The FT1000 is a BIG wireless! And it's heavy too. Basically it does 200W output (a little more actually) on all bands. It has two complete receivers, each with its own tuning knob (I liked that bit best of all!) and a bewildering number of memories, VFO's and so on. You can receive on both Rx's simultaneously, with any split and you can transmit any split (160 to 10 if you must). It has 4 bandwidths, selectable independently of mode: 2400, 2000, 500 and 250Hz. The filters are pretty good and there is an option to double bank the filters to sharpen the skirts even more. Of course there is also

Yaesu's usual shift and width controls. It has a built in ATU and a keyer and a speech processor and.... well I said it was a big heavy radio didn't I?!

THINGS THAT WGV LIKES

The twin Rx's are great! Makes working splits a dream. You set the main-VFO on the DX, then copy the frequency across into the sub-VFO and tune round till you hear the pileup. Because you can hear both "sides" now, you can put your Tx (on the sub-VFO) just where the previous guy the DX worked was, call him and bingo! (well sometimes anyway.)

Four pushbuttons select how the two tuning knobs operate. "Normal" mode is transceive on the Main VFO, which has several functions not available to the Sub VFO. "SPLIT" makes the Tx take its operating frequency mode and so on from the sub VFO, whilst "DUAL" turns the second Rx on, also under control of the Sub VFO. These two pusbuttons operate independently of one another. The other two buttons allow you to move the main VFO characteristics to the Sub VFO and to exchange the two VFO contents.

The Rx performance seems excellent. Even with big antennas on 7MHz it copes just fine without resorting to the attenuator. Tuning is real smooth, with nicely weighted knobs and no synthesiser clicks.

I like the fact that the clarifier has a separate knob and TX, RX and clear buttons, all sensibly arranged. At last Yaesu has caught up with Kenwood! And the audio peak and RF notch filters are first class.

All these VFO's! Each band has 2 VFO's, for each receiver. Ten bands times 2 VFO's per band times 2 receivers equals a lot of VFO's (40 in fact). the practical upshot of all this is that you can set one VFO up on SSB at the high end of the band and the other on CW at the low end for EACH BAND / receiver. So you can move around between the various segments of the bands very quickly indeed. There is a 100/1000KHz up/down facility too. Naturally, each VFO carries with it mode, selectivity and frequency setting, all non volatile. That last item is especially handy when zapping around the bands, as you always return to wherever you were on any band. It's particularly easy to move between the VFO's and the 99 memories (which I think I've only used about 5 of so far).

Very clean front panel layout. The tuning knobs (note plural) are well separated from the lesser controls, and the other controls are well spaced for the fat fingered amongst us. There are all sorts of cunning things you can do with devious multiple keystrokes: I can't remember any of them but it was fun playing with them at first.

THINGS THAT WGV DOESN'T LIKE

The CW note is a little "ploppy" and at high speed the RF is slightly clipped (it seems to take a while for the synthesiser to work out what to do and the Tx is held off (thank goodness) until it has decided). I don't seem to be able to make the internal keyer send what I meant(!): it's just as well I don't use it anyway.

No facility for disabling the PA. You

are stuck with a 200W job whether you want it or not. Makes driving transverters interesting!

I'd have prefered to have two separate jacks, one for "straight" key inputs, the other for the paddle. Yaesu have cunningly arranged it that both keys can plug into a single socket, then (the daft thing) they give you two of them in parallel, one on the front panel, the other on the back!

The fan! Quite intelligently, they used a squirrel cage type fan. This makes it easy to evenly cool the large heatsinks that occupy almost 60% of the back panel. So why it has to make so much noise is beyond me! It has two speeds. Unless you are really provoking the Tx for long periods it will chunter along on low speed which is mildly irritating, but when it decides to go to high speed the noise is objectionable unless you are wearing cans. Fortunately it only seems to do that rarely and only for a few seconds at a time.

CONCLUSIONS

Well I like it! It certainly is a big improvement on the old FT980 (which I still have) and having used it both for DXing and for a few contests, I have been pleasantly surprised with its performance. Incidentally, although it takes a bit of setting up, using the two receivers in diversity mode on the same signal produces some fascinating results and almost always a significant improvement in readability.

I suppose I should admit at this stage that I have only had about a dozen QSO's on SSB. Reports on SSB seem to be very complimentary so I'm sure it's fine for that mode. The couple of thousand CW QSO's have been fun too.

I have had one problem with it. For no clear reason it popped its driver transistors the other week. Being a somewhat off white import, I decided to do it myself and several hours and several million screws later I had the offending hunks of silicon oozing heat sink compound all over the shack. SMC came up with the goods at a very reasonable price and that evening I was back on the air again. I have no idea why they went, all has been fine since, and I don't even think I was transmitting when they demised. All rather odd.

If you want an FT1000, it'll cost you about 3000 notes here in the UK. In the States, they are $3000 and with the exchange rate being the way it is that bears some thinking about. By the time I'd paid the carriage and import duty, I reckon I saved about £800.

Of course, if you'd like to play with one before you spend the dosh, then you know where to find one. You'd be more than welcome!

73, John, G3WGV

KB1T HAM PHOTO CALENDAR

Shortly before the HF Convention I was sent a number of 1990 calendars by KB1T and asked to distribute them, free of charge, at the Convention. About 75 were given out at the Convention and I hope most CDXC members who attended and who wanted one took one then. KB1T has recently written

cont'd on back page

Using K1EA between "remote" sites
(Paul Evans, G4BKI)

Just occasionally you might be confronted with a similar problem to the one we had at GW8GT in the CQWW CW Contest, a long(ish) distance between the two run and multiplier station shacks. This short note tells you how to get around the problem and still link K1EA multiplier stations together.

When two or more computers are in the same building and linked using the serial ports, it is simply a matter of connecting them up and then getting to grips with K1EA itself. However, the station we were running had two shacks, one housing the HF run station and two multiplier rigs and the other about 600 yards away housing the HF multiplier station. This arrangement simply suited the layout of antennas on site and serves to reduce interference problems between stations. The problem was how do you link two computers over that distance without running a long (RF susceptible) cable? Luckily packet radio saves the day again!

The answer is simply to connect a TNC to the computer at each end and then run it in transparent mode to shovel the data over. This has the added advantage that the TNCs provide data buffering and high integrity to the transmission of the data. In normal circumstances, if one K1EA machine goes down and another station is still logging calls, any data sent out over the serial line will be lost. The resdult is that, when the other machine has been re-booted, there will be a mismatch between the two logs held. This can provide endless hours of fun in post-event "fixing"!!!!! This remote linking also does away with this problem unless one end is down for a very long time (about 200 QSOs worth!).

In theory the linking sounds simple but, in practice, it has to be done very carefully in the correct sequence. Here's how it's done:

Choose a very clear frequency on any band you like.

Connect up your radios and serial links to the computer as per your normal packet set-up.

Using a terminal program, set ABAUD 4800, PACLEN 255, DWAIT 0, FRACK 1, PERSIST 255, SLOTTIME 1, PACTIME AFTER 1, RETRY 0.

Boot K1EA on your machine.

At the front page set for a LOCAL TNC.

Finish the rest of the front page set-up and press CTRL-Enter.

Wait for K1EA to reach its status page.

Press any key to start the main logging routine.

Type SETUP and set COM1 to 4800 and TNC.

Press CTRL-Enter.

You are now back at the callsign entry field.

Press Alt-T to open the packet window.

Press CTRL-C to make sure you are in command mode of the TNC.

Now connect, in normal packet style,

to the other station (use different callsigns in MYCALL!).

Press CTRL-C to force command mode again.

Enter t to start transparent mode.

Press Alt-T to close the packet window.

Type SETUP in the callsign field.

Set COM1 to 4800 and Multi-n where n is the number of your station.

Press CTRL-Enter to save.

The link is now established and should stay active for the whole weekend! If the system crashes terminally (ie loses connnection), the reset the TNC and perform the above procedure again (missing out the parameter settings).

RETRY 0 in the TNC is VERY important, because otherwise if one end of the link were to go down it will soon timeout. RETRY 0 ensures that not only will the link stay up, but that after a crash recovery will be swift.

Use of Converse mode with CR OFF and CPACTIME was attempted but, for some reason, K1EA didn't like it and got garbled data. It should have worked, but the transparent mode route seems to be 100% reliable so I have stuck to it.

This procedure allows you to interconnect and number of K1EA stations, operating over and (!) distance that can be bridged by a radio link. As for the legality of spacing the multiplier stations by large distances, I'm not sure, but certainly when you are at the same postal address which was the case at GW8GT then all is OK.

If anybody else has cause to use this type of setup I would be very interested to hear of any observations that are made.

Paul Evans G4BKI - VP9KF - 8P9FT

"WHERE DO WE GO NEXT?"

by Martti Laine OH2BH.

Famous DXer, expedition operator and contester Martti Laine has written a book called "Where do we go next?". Running to almost 300 pages and "richly illustrated with pictures from the author's personal archives" it tells the story of expeditions to such places at Annobon Island, Western Sahara, Market Reef, Southern Sudan, Revilla Gigedo, M-V Island, Jarvis Island and Conway Reef. It "tells the story of what it is like to be a super-DXer" and describes the part Martti played in getting some of these DXCC countries created.

The "pre-publication price" is $22.95 (US), plus $7 for postage to the U.K., and it can be ordered from KTE Publications, P.O. Box 1, SF-00401 Helsinki, Finland, by quoting your VISA or MASTERCARD card number (state which type of card) and expiry date of the card. Don't forget to include your signature with the order if you wish to have the book charged to your credit card.

All copies of the book ordered in advance will be personally signed by Martti himself. I do not know when the book will be available, but have already ordered my copy by the above method.

G3GIQ - A POTTED HISTORY

[*The following autobiographical notes were written by Henry G3GIQ for possible publication in "RadCom" when he was awarded the ROTAB trophy in 1988. Unfortunately, it never got published, but "RadCom's" loss is our gain, so for our newer members who may not know Henry, here are some details of one of the founder members of CDXC - ed.*]

I first came across amateur radio whilst tuning a broadcast receiver in 1947. Logged 100 countries on 20 metres which covered an eighth of an inch on the dial. Subsequently was very fortunate to meet G4KG, who gave much encouragement. Was staggered to find 10 metres took 20 turns on the tuning knob of his AR88. Entered RAF in 1948 and lucky to work on advanced radio systems (for the time). Obtained amateur radio licence in January 1950, having been coached by the wireless ops to 25 w.p.m. with a straight key. Rushed home on leave when the licence came through, made a rig and had three great days on the bands before having to return. The first year of operating was with 25 watts and a pair of dipoles for 10 and 20 metres. Having not been able to work across the Atlantic with indoor antennas, planned a 40 ft. mast with a beam in a very small back garden. The day before it went up nearly fell off my seat when an LU came back from a call using a dipole just above my head. Went on phone after the first year, and one day shortly afterwards was told by a local old lady that her neighbour had written to the BBC (!) to tell them a Russian spy was living next door. Moved to present QTH in 1952 and put up a 10 metre beam and phased array for 20 metres. Main interest has always been DXing and DXCC No 1820 was obtained in late 1953, whilst at university. No direct QSLs then! The equipment was an AR88 (still owned) and the transmitter home brew, based on the RAF T1131 and using its original PSU and my original 25 watt Tx as the exciter. The PA was a pair of TZ40s modulated by a similar pair, and 200 watts (800 watts p.e.p.) could be produced. The weight of the whole cabinet was about 650 pounds and it is a credit to the joists in my bedroom that we did not have a calamity.

As with most operators, had periods of more and less activity, until 1965 when an SSB rig was obtained (KW2000A), to be shortly followed by an SB200 linear and a TA33jr on a new mast. Much activity followed in the next five years, netting such as 4W, YA, XW, VS9 (7O), and many now deleted. However, in about 1970 HF was all but deserted for DXing on 2 metres and later OSCAR. Luckily was persuaded by G3UGL in 1974 to put up a 60 ft crank-up tower, which surprisingly caused little or no comment. An active return to HF was made in 1976 when the all-time score was 265, after meeting P29JS just as he was starting the 14220 net. Shortly afterwards was invited by G3MCS to join a small group of DXers on 144.525, which was to become CDXC. Thereafter followed the

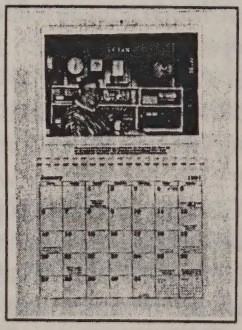
most active period of amateur radio ever, being almost chained to the rig for eight years. Catching the desire from G3MCS to work the LF as well as the HF bands, new antennas were put up, although not too much room available, and a passable score obtained. Have now sent out over 2000 direct QSLs and as a result could claim quite a few certificates, but have only bothered with the most prestigious.

Now only need three countries, XZ, ZA and 3Y Bouvet [*remember this was written in 1988! - ed*], so spare time is shared between ham radio and computers. IOTA has been a fresh source of interest and a very fine replacement for country and band country chasing.

Self employed as a consultant designer in electronics, mainly concerned with the design of telemetry transmitters and receivers.

cont'd from p.16

again to say that the 1991 calendars will be available by the time this Newsletter comes out. Apart from listing the dates of over 100 operating events, there is a 10 page reference section including CQ and ITU zone maps, Russian prefixes/oblasts by Ed Kritsky NT2X, a table of ITU prefix allocations, USA amateur bands and modes 160m-23cm, and colour photos of operators/DX locations such as A51JS, ZS8MI, VK9TR (Willis Island), K1AR, HL5BDS, AH3C/KH5J, VE3XN, UA9G/W7YS and more. The calendars cost $11.95 each, plus $1.50 dollars postage (surface) but KB1T will supply them to CDXC members at $9.50, plus $1.50 postage, providing at least 10 are ordered.



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1991 Ham Photo Calendar

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